



*Working to improve
the lives of Hispanic
older adults and
their families*

January 14, 2010

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Net Neutrality, GN 09-191 & WC 07-52

The National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA) is the nation's premier constituency-based organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for the Hispanic/Latino elderly, their families, and their communities. Now in its 29th year, NHCOA represents a network of 42 community-based organizations across the continental U.S., the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. NHCOA also maintains a broader network of 7,000 individuals and reaches 10 million Hispanics each year through its work and that of its affiliates.

As we stated in our December 15th letter to the Commission prior to the release of this NPRM, telecommunications access through broadband expansion is the most vital and efficient way to deliver information, services, and products – allowing mature adults to live life to the fullest irrespective of personal ability or geographic location. The Commission must adopt policies that will expand the deployment of broadband technology: improved healthcare options, online medical consultations, and independent living applications all of which drastically benefit the aging community.

Now as the Commission begins work in earnest on this proceeding, it should avoid imposing new regulations where no problem exists, and instead focus on enhancing consumer choice, broadband investment and Internet innovation.

The Internet is a platform that transforms the way the aging community stays connected, receives health care and provides value in the workforce. The Internet has been a steady economic driver of the past two decades and we must ensure this environment continues to foster job growth, economic prosperity and the development of our workforce.

Let us reiterate that NHCOA, along with the President and Administration strongly believe that the Internet plays a critical role in helping to solve today's most pressing social issues such as those faced by mature Americans. The Commission has the opportunity to focus its energy on policies that will increase the adoption of broadband technologies so that more seniors can get connected without imposing unnecessary government controls.

Sincerely,

Dr. Yanira Cruz
President & CEO